

ERASMUS SMITH'S SCHOOLS.

ABSTRACT

OF

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable the House of Commons,
dated 26 July 1871;—for,

“ COPY of the MINUTES of the PROCEEDINGS of the Governors of ERASMUS SMITH'S SCHOOLS in reference to their ESTATES in the County of *Limerick* for the last Twelve Months; and the Number of Governors of said Schools; and of the Number present at each Meeting of the Board for that Time; and, in particular, in reference to the Formation of a Drainage District under the Provisions of the Act 26 & 27 Vict. c. 88, for the Drainage of the River called the ‘ Dead River,’ in the Neighbourhood of said Estates, and their Consent and subsequent Refusal to the Formation of same, and the Number of Governors present on such occasions, or either of them.”

THE said Order was delivered to the Registrar of the Governors on 7th August 1871.

The Number of Governors of said Schools is Thirty-six. There is at present one Vacancy.

19th December 1870.

Governors present - - - - - 5.

Re Mulkear Draioage, County Limerick.

Submitted Memorial from the Tenants, and Mr. Hore was now requested to report (in writing) his opinion as to the advance of rents which would be made by the Governors according to this Memorial, and also to add his advice upon the whole question.

3rd March 1871.

Second Meeting.—Governors present - - - - - 8.

Re Mulkear Drainage District, County Limerick.

This case was now again considered, and the Governors came to the conclusion that they do not think that they would be justified in acceding to this proposed extensive work.

26th May 1871.

Governors present - - - - - 4.

Re Mulkear Drainage District.

This subject was again considered, in consequence of a circular from Mr. W. Bredin (Honorary Secretary), sent to and forwarded by Walter Hore, Esq.

Ordered.—The Governors desire to be informed by Mr. Hore, whether the tenants who will be called on to advance their rents consider that they will receive adequate value for the amount the Governors are called upon to subscribe to Board of Works; and Mr. Hore also to report his own opinion as to increase of rent which will be required.

14th July 1871.

Governors present - - - - - 6.

Considered Notice of Motion in the House of Commons, by Mr. Synan, for Returns, particularly as to the Dead River Drainage.

Ordered.—To await the Motion in the House of Commons on 25th instant.

Mr. Hore's report, dated 29th June last, made pursuant to Order of 26th May last, read, stating that the tenants whose lands would be affected by the drainage approved of, and were ready to pay increased rents, and he approved of the project.

There is not any Minute in the proceedings of the said Governors within the period of the returns, showing the Governors' consent to the formation of the district for the drainage of the Dead River.

When the project was originally brought before the Governors, they were anxious to ascertain whether the contemplated drainage would benefit their estate and their tenants holding land within the district, and they authorised their agent, Walter Hore, Esq., to inquire into the project, who forwarded two reports from Mr. Wm. Sidney Cox, the engineer of the parties promoting the undertaking, he stating that the quantity of land to be relieved would be about 2,520 acres, and estimated the expense of the work at 7,000 l. or 8,000 l.; and he and said Walter Hore having stated that it would be necessary to raise a subscription in proportion to the extent of the property which it was supposed would be benefited by the drainage, to pay preliminary expenses; and it appearing that 45 l. would be the proportion of such expenses to be paid by the Governors, that sum was on 8th September 1868, paid by their said agent to the honorary secretary and treasurer of the fund for the preliminary expenses of said Mulkear Drainage District. But said Governors did not thereby bind themselves to assent to the formation of said drainage district, unless on full consideration of the plans and estimates for the work they should be of opinion that in the due discharge of their trust they would be justified in subjecting their estate to the payment of a large sum of money for their proportion of the expense of the works.

The plans and estimates for the work having been sent by the promoters of the project to the Board of Works, they, on 18th March 1869, instructed their inspector, Samuel U. Roberts, Esq., to inspect the district, and he on 25th October 1869, reported that he had done so. It appeared by said report that the works would be very extensive, and the expense very heavy. That the cost of the works was estimated (by the Petitioners) at 11,910 l. 5 s. The extent of the land which it was anticipated would be improved was calculated at 3,207 statute acres; the estimated increase in value at 986 l. 14 s. 11 d., being stated to be an average annual increase in value of nearly 6 s. 2 d. per statute acre, and yielding on the total estimated cost of the work a return of rather over 8 ¹¹/₁₀₀ per cent.

The inspector recommended several important and expensive alterations to be made in the project as submitted by the Petitioners, which he stated would increase

increase the estimate to 14,938 *l.* 13 *s.* 4 *d.*, which was, in his judgment, a fair and sufficient estimate.

He further stated that the area of land included in the district was 3,250 $\frac{1}{2}$ statute acres, and the estimated increase in value 1,003 *l.* 11 *s.* 5 *d.*, which would give a return of 6 *s.* 10 *d.* per cent. on the entire estimated outlay, which would be increased by whatever it might be determined to charge the county for the re-construction of the public bridge.

At the foot of said report, the inspector adds the following:—

Note.—The injury which will result from the removal of the water-power at Dromleigh is such as admits of being fully compensated for by money.

It does not appear by the report where Dromleigh is, and there is nothing to show what might be the extent of the injury to be compensated for. But it appeared to the Governors that the compensation, whatever the amount might be, must be in addition to the large sum of 14,938 *l.* 13 *s.* 4 *d.*, estimated by Mr. Roberts as the expense of the works necessary to be done.

On 8th December 1869, the Governors received a letter, dated 6th December, from Mr. Henry Stokes, county surveyor for the county of Kerry, stating that he had been requested by Mrs. M. A. Kearney, tenant of the lands of Pullagh (a farm of 283 acres, P. M.) under the Governors, to state that she in common with other tenants adjoining the Bilboa and Dead River, were alarmed at the prospect of a great taxation being laid on to sanction the project, and that he had been employed to lay before the Board a review of the plans and estimates, and to give his opinion on them, requesting that they would be taken into consideration before the formal assent of the Board was given to the project.

He stated that by the amended project then put forward (Mr. Roberts's), certain sinkings of the rivers were proposed at an estimated cost of 15,000 *l.*, or very nearly (note, Mr. Roberts's estimate is 14,938 *l.* 13 *s.* 4 *d.*), and the improved value was calculated at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., only sufficient for interest on the loan, which he stated was very like a repetition of projects of 1836 and 1848, and that when the differences in the value of labour since then was taken into account, it was doubly certain that this attempt must fail if carried into execution. He then stated many objections to the project, and strongly recommended the Board of Governors to refuse their assent to the project.

It appears from those reports that it was first estimated that the expense would be about 7,000 *l.* or 8,000 *l.*, and the quantity of land relieved would be about 2,520 acres.

Secondly, as sent in to the Board of Works, the expense would be 11,910 *l.* 5 *s.*

And thirdly, as estimated by the Inspector of the Board of Works, the expense would be 14,938 *l.* 13 *s.* 4 *d.*, and the quantity of land relieved would be 3,250 acres.

And, in addition to the latter large estimate of the expense, the note at foot of the report, referring to an entirely undefined sum as compensation for an admitted injury by removal of water-power at Dromleigh, which is not in any way referred to in the report.

The great increase of the district from 2,520 to 3,250 acres, and the very great increase in the estimates, and the uncertainty as to what might ultimately be the amount of the last, imperatively required that the Governors should pause before they consented to a project which would subject their estate, and consequently their tenants, undoubtedly to a heavy expense, and which in consequence of the note above referred to, would subject them to further expense, the amount of which the Governors had not any means of estimating.

Copies of the minutes of the several occasions on which the Governors have, within the last 12 months, dissented to the formation of the said drainage district are hereinbefore set forth.

The project is still before the Governors, and shall have their best consideration; their reason for not assenting to the project arising from an anxious wish faithfully to discharge the trust reposed in them, and to preserve their estate for the objects of their trusts, and for the good of their tenants thereon.

Eustace Thorp.

Regr. Governors, Erasmus Smith's
Schools.

No. 40, Harcourt-street, Dublin,
17 August 1871.

ABSTRACT RETURN

COPIES of Minutes of Proceedings of the
Governing of University Schools during the
last Twelve Months, in reference to their
Expenditure in the County of Durham.

(Mr. Symes.)

Ordered by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
4 March 1876.
